

A farm fodder factory

A Gilgandra district farmer is proving the value of an Australian hydroponic fodder production system.

Stock on Mr Walter Prout's Armatree property 'Locksley' are reaping the benefits, putting on substantial weight during the drought.

The system, called The Fodder Factory, is claimed to be an economical alternative to buying in feed during winter shortages and drought.

A field day on December 15 is certain to attract widespread interest as farmers investigate the system.

The distributors claim that one kilogram of seed becomes six to ten kilograms of green feed after eight days and Mr Prout's samples appear to confirm the claim.

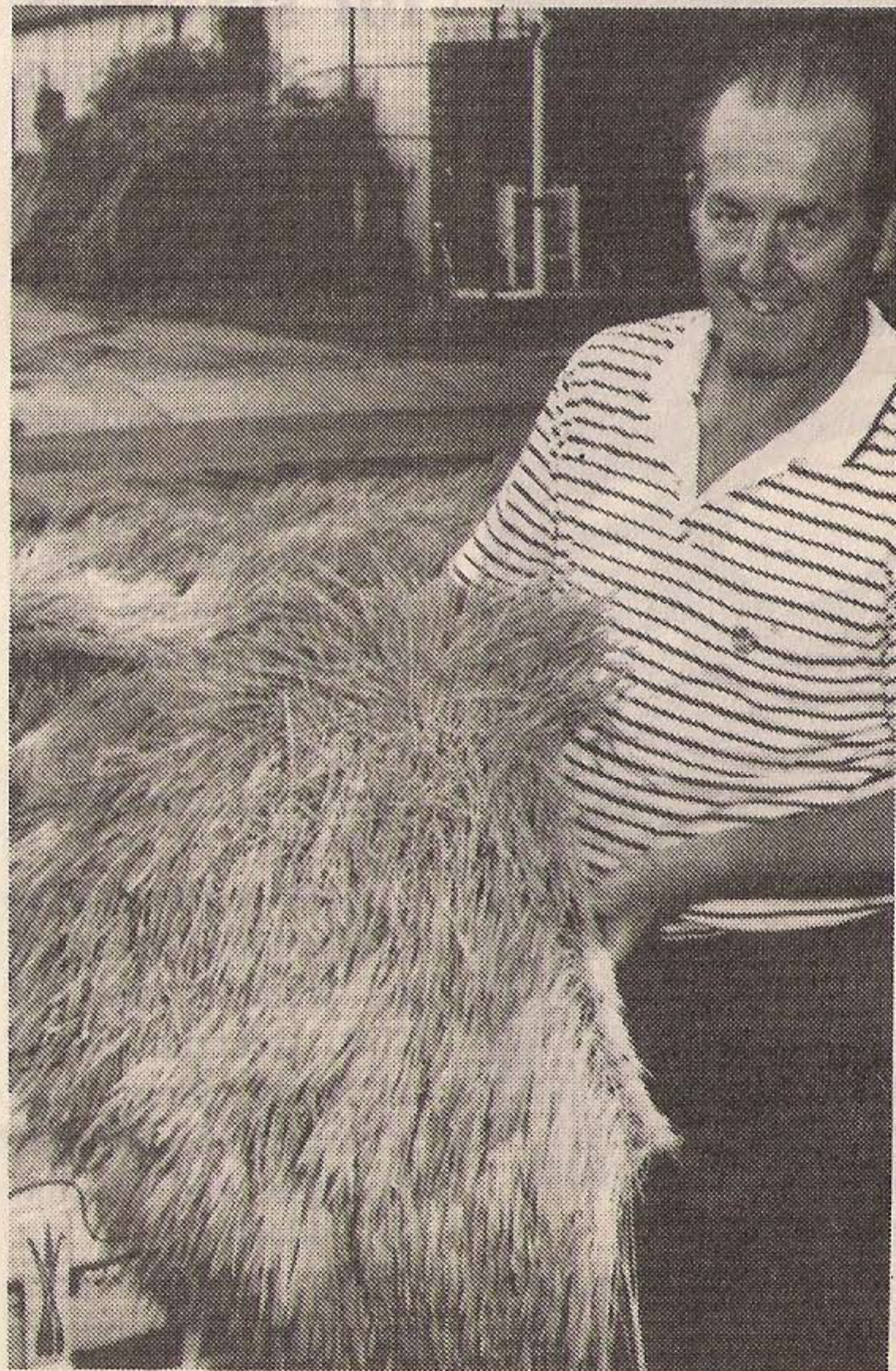
The grown fodder has double the protein level of ungerminated seed, despite using minimal water for maximum production.

Once the 'factory' is established, its operation simply entails removing the fodder daily and replacing it with new seed ready for sprouting.

The polystyrene 'factory's' internal climate is electronically controlled, reducing the need for constant monitoring as the weather changes.

A huge advantage of the system is that no hay storage is required on farm as fresh grass is produced each day.

There is also the massive reduction in use of farm machinery and fertilisers to establish and



Gilgandra district farmer Walter Prout with a sam-